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# THE TRIAL OF FAITH

BY

Lannie W. Stewart.



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To My Wife, Mrs. Anna Ethelene Stewart, and  
Little Daughter Elizabeth, this little booklet is  
lovingly dedicated.

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# THE TRIAL OF FAITH.

## ACT ONE.

### CAST OF CHARACTERS.

- I. Twelve Medical Missionaries. Graduates of Ward College for Christian Workers. Six Young Doctors and Six Nurses, and Rev. Eugene Van Ness, Dean of School.

### Scene I.

A room in School Chapel. Class of twelve graduates seated in order listening to address of Dean Van Ness.

Curtain Rises and Dean Van Ness addresses Class as follows:

### ADDRESS.

In closing this my last address to you dear students of the Missionary Class, I do so with a thankful heart that such noble, brave, and true young men and women as you ever came to my school. It has been a pleasure as well as a blessing to me, your teacher and dean, to mingle with you for the past four years; the time in which you have been doing your best to prepare yourselves



for the noble work of Medical Missionaries and Nurses, for the foreign fields. I am glad also that most of you have already found employment in this vast field of Christian endeavor, as a number of you will soon sail for your respective appointments; but as there are a few of the nurses that have not yet been employed, I have a proposition to make to you, for I am very desirous of securing the services of a brave volunteer for some special work that our church is trying to do.

You students will remember that three years ago our church founded a mission school and hospital for the numerous tribes of Negritos, (those little dwarfish black people) that live in the mountainous sections of Luzon; that larger northern island of the Philippine group. And in founding this school and hospital, our church became pioneer in this field so far as Protestantism is concerned; but not so with the Roman Church, for when our workers arrived there, they found a strong Roman Catholic influence at work among the natives, and a Monastery well established in the mountain fastness, and presided over by a Monk and Priest by the name of St. Francis.

This Monk is a very wicked fellow and he uses all sorts of quackery and charms to delude the natives and to keep them in his power. And he from the very first, has opposed the location of our school and hospital so near his den of vice and superstition, and has several times resorted to

foul play in order to try to break them up. And just a few days ago Miss Bessie Gordon, our head nurse in this little infirmary, and who by the way graduated from this school also, while on a trip from the infirmary to see a poor sick woman who lived with one of the mountain tribes nearby, was attacked and murdered in the most brutal manner. She was on an errand of mercy in the name of our Lord, but poor girl, she was murdered by the way. The guilty parties have never been apprehended, but Dr. Greer and wife, who have charge of this school and hospital, will never become convinced but what this foul murder of our dear martyred girl was planned by St. Francis the Monk, in his Monastery and carried out by his native henchmen.

But now, dear class, returning to my proposition, I received a telegram yesterday, coming through our General Board, from Dr. Greer, asking me if our class that graduates at this time could not furnish a nurse to take the place of this martyred Bessie Gordon. I know it is asking a great sacrifice of some member of this class, but we must sacrifice if we serve acceptably the Lord who sacrificed Heaven's greatest gift for our redemption. And now in closing, this my last address to you, I want to know if there is anyone in this class that will answer this Macedonian call, and respond for this heroic service. If anyone wishes to do so will you please rise to your feet

so that Dr. Greer's telegram may be answered that the nurse will be furnished.

*Gertrude White, Daughter of a rich Georgia planter, arises and addresses Dr. Van Ness as follows:*

(2.) Gertrude White. Dr. Van Ness, while you talked to us my mind wandered away from our present surroundings to far off Luzon, and in my imagination I could see those poor dwarfed Negrito Tribes that our dear sister Bessie Gordon loved to nurse and help so well. And while you were talking the Lord was speaking to me in the words of Isaiah's Prophecy and saying: Who will go for us and whom shall I send? And I have said to myself in answer to these words, and I now say in the presence of you all, Here am I, Lord, send me.

(3.) Dr. Van Ness. Then Miss White, you accept this call and Dr. Greer's telegram can be answered at once that a nurse will be furnished.

(4.) Gertrude White. I do.

(5.) Dr. Van Ness. And Miss White, can you sail real soon for your new post of duty, as this call is very urgent?

(6.) Gertrude White. I can as soon as I can return to my home and get my belongings, for I had already determined to travel this summer in the Orient, and my plans have been made to that



end. My people are already expecting me to be away for that time, and I can re-arrange my plans to be away for a time indefinite or as long as my services are needed in this new field.

(7.) Dr. Van Ness. Gertrude White, God bless you. You are a brave, true soldier of the Cross. I will wire Dr. Greer and his wife, that a nurse will be there to take the place of our martyred Bessie Gordon. Will be there, yes, as fast as steam can carry her. This Angel of Light and Mercy.

At this saying, all the class arises and bids Gertrude White an affectionate farewell as the curtain falls.

End Act I.



## ACT TWO.

### CAST OF CHARACTERS.

- II. Gertrude White, Missionary Nurse.  
Uncle Mose, negro servant in her home, and  
A. M. E. Local Preacher.  
Esq. John White, steward in church, Gertrude's father.  
Mrs. Elizabeth White, Gertrude's mother.  
Charlie White, her brother.  
Harry Ward, her lover.

### Scene 2.

In sitting room, White home in Georgia, in evening. Gertrude White reading. Uncle Mose, negro servant, cleaning and dusting room, and singing as he works.

Curtain Rises.

(1.) Uncle Mose cleans and dusts the room and sings as he goes, Amazin' Grace, How Sweet it sounds, Dat sated dat retch lik me. I once wuz lost; but now Ise found, wuz bline; but now I see, . . . and so on.

(2.) Gertrude White speaks. Uncle Mose!

(3.) Mose. Yes, Missus, Ise coming—what foh does you want?

(4.) Gertrude. Well, Uncle Mose, I just wanted to know what makes you so happy?

(5.) Mose. Well, to tell you de truf, little Missus, Ise happy ober two or three things at one time. First, Ise happy kase de Lawd's sabed a poh old nigger lik me. Den again Ise happy kase Ise got sich a good home here at Massa John's house, and fudder kase youse back to home foh I sho did miss you to read de Testament to me while yoh wuz way to school. And lastly, little Missus, Ise happy kase de Lawd's called me to preach de Gospel, and eber Sunday Ise got a pintment down at de little nigger church, and, bless yoh soul, little Missus, dis ole nigger's heart do swell as he spostulates and spounds to dem niggers bout de good things in de Gospel foh dem.

(6.) Gertrude. You are truly a great soul Uncle Mose, and a true Missionary of the Cross. Go on in your good work, and may God bless you.

(7.) Mose. Deed Ise gwine on little Missus, jes as long as de Lawd gibs me bref.

(8.) Gertrude. But Uncle Mose, you spoke of being so glad to see me at home again. You knew, I guess, that I am only at home for a few days and will soon sail—

(9.) Mose. Yes. Missus, Massa John done tole me dat youse gwine to Japan dis summah foh

yoh health; but dat yoh done be back foh winter, and dat yoh read de Testament to me next winter most eber day.

(10.) Gertrude. But Mose, I have changed my mind about my trip.

(11.) Mose, (with much emphasis). Yoh say yoh is. Den tank de Lawd if youse not gwine.

(12.) Gertrude. But Mose, I'm going away just the same, and on a longer trip. Perhaps I may be gone for years, and (under breath) perhaps forever.

(13.) Mose, begins to cry. Oh! little Missus, don't talk so foh dese gray hairs kant stand no sich trouble.

(14.) Gertrude. Mose, come sit down a minute.

(15.) Mose sits down.

(16.) Gertrude. Now Uncle Mose, I know that you are a Christian and you will be relieved when I tell you the purpose of my going away. Mose, you believe in Foreign Missions, don't you?

(17.) Mose. Deed I does little Missus. If der hadn't been no missionary Ise still be a man eatin nigger, jes lik my kin folks in Afrika.

(18.) Gertrude. Well, Uncle Mose, I am going away to become a Foreign Missionary in the Island of Luzon, that larger northern Island of the Philippine group. I am going to nurse in our Mis-



sionary Hospital, the one that we have established for the Negrito tribes of the mountainous section of that Island.

(19.) Mose rises and shouts. Well, den bless de Lawd, bless de Lawd. Is I dreamin or is I sho nuf wake. Say, little Missus, ole Mose has prayed foh yoh eber since yoh opened dem eyes in dis world, and de fust time dat I seed yoh in old Missus's arms, wuz when de preacher, Brudder Johnson, took yoh and poured water on yoh little baby head, and at dat time, old Mose jes prayed de Lawd to use yoh foh his own glory, and now youse called to be a Missionary, bless de Lawd, bless de Lawd.

(20.) Gertrude. But Mose, I haven't told papa and mamma, nor brother yet, and what do you suppose they will say?

(21.) Mose. Don't know little Missus, but hopes dey say, de Lawd's will and not ours be done.

(22.) Gertrude. Uncle Mose, you go and call them in as I must break the news to them for I must arrange to sail very soon, and Mose, you may come back in and sit with us until the discussion is over, for if they oppose my plans you, at least, will be on my side.

(23.) Mose retires and re-enters bringing Esq. John White, his wife and son Charlie. They are all seated and Esq. White opens the conversation.

(24.) Esq. White. Well my dear daughter, it sure is a pleasure to all of us to have you at home after being away so long in school. And while it is for the good of your health, yet we all wish that you did not have to take your Oriental trip so that you might be at home all the summer; but yet sixmonths will soon pass away and you will be at home again.

(25.) Charlie White. Yes, Gertie dear, we are glad that you are at home and I am very sorry that you are going to take your trip to the Orient, for I am so lonesome without my only sister, to bake doughnuts and cookies for me, and to go rowing with me on the lake as you used to do.

(26.) Mrs. Elizabeth White. Well Gertrude, I too can join your father and brother in their expressions of joy over your return and we shall all be glad when the six months of your trip have ended and you will be back home for the rest of the time.

(27.) Gertrude. Dear ones, your words of appreciation and love make me wish that the pleasures of home ties were never broken; but the path of duty often interferes and I have called all of you in here to tell you that my plans for my trip to the Orient have been changed, and I have a new plan to reveal to you. Dear mama, papa, and brother, I am going on a long, long trip. I am going as a Missionary to Luzon, to become a nurse in our hospital that is located there for the

care of those Negrito Tribes, and is run in connection with Dr. Greer's School.

(28.) Esq. White (arising and speaking with much emotion). My daughter going as a Missionary nurse to those Negrito Tribes in Luzon—a daughter of John White, Esq., going as a Missionary. Never, no I say never.

(29). Charlie White. And in that statement father I join you. Sister Gertie just can't go, she might get killed.

(30.) Esq. White. Well I should say not, Gertie, my darling girl, you just can't go. I am willing to discharge my duty to the church along all lines but this. I am a steward in my church, I help collect my pastor's salary, and I pay twenty dollars per year to the Missionary Collections, five whole dollars per quarter; but to give up my only girl to become a Missionary, well, no I can't, that's all there is to it, I just can't.

(31.) Mose. Massa John, will yoh jes let poh ole Mose say a few words.

(32.) Esq. White. Yes, Mose, your counsel and pious wisdom has helped me over a good many hard places and it will not be rejected in this the hardest trial of my life. Say on.

33.) Mose. Well Massa John, I wuz jes gwine to say dat dis is de Lawd's doins and dat yoh hadn't orter interfere wid it. De Lawd he works in mysterious ways his wonders to perform. And he can bring little Missus back to us



safe and sound after her work is finished. And Massa John, as to what yoh pay de Lawd dats nuthin compared wid what youse worth, jus twenty dollars a year out of a fifty thousand dollar income from dis plantation. And I tells yoh Massa John Ise heard yoh pray de Lawd's prayer, and say Dy will be done, and now Massa, after yoh has prayed dis, yoh dare not rebel, foh de Lawd's jes gwine to hab his way sho.

(34.) Gertrude. Yes, father dear, Mose is right. I too have heard you pray Thy will be done, and it is God's will that I go as a Missionary, and if dangers are in the way, and if you at home must suffer to give me up, and I must suffer in going, yet let's all look away from our suffering to Calvary and there as we look upon the suffering Lord, who died for the sins of the race, I'm sure we will see greater suffering for us, than we are called upon to bear for him. And now dear ones, please do not interfere with my plans, and my call from God. Give me your consent to go and may I go with your prayers and blessings?

(35.) Mrs. Elizabeth White. Gertrude, God bless you my child. I shall miss you and it means a great deal of suffering to say it; but I can say now, the Lord's will and not ours be done. Go and do your duty in obedience to God's call, and my prayers and blessings shall follow you.

(36.) Mose. And mine too, bless yoh heart little Missus, bless de Lawd, bless de Lawd.

(37.) Charlie White. And since God has called you sister I shall not withhold my consent, but shall give it no matter how much it costs. Go and do your duty.

(38.) Mose. And now what say yoh, Massa John?

(39.) Esq. White. I must confess my own selfishness and sin, and thank God for such a noble-hearted girl, willing as she is to sacrifice and to serve, and though it takes suffering on my part, I too, will give my consent, and say with Job, Though He slay me yet will I trust Him.

(40.) Gertrude. And now dear ones, after each of you have given your consent to my plans in obedience to God's will, there is yet one more trial through which I must pass, for in a few minutes Harry Ward, my own dear playmate and chum, yes, and my lover as well (for that I love him you well know) will be here and I must reveal to him what I have told you in this hour, and as you are tired and will want to retire to each of your rooms, won't you please pray that both Harry and I may be brave in this parting hour?

(Esq. White, his wife, Charlie White, and Mose all retire from the room as some one knocks at the door, and Harry Ward enters.)

(41. ) Harry Ward speaks, extending hand. Good evening, Gertrude.



(42.) Gertrude. Good evening, Harry. I'm so glad you came for I wanted to talk to you so bad. So I just sent Mose over with a note asking you to call.

(43.) Harry Ward. No apologies needed for sending the note, Gertrude, for I was going to send one asking you to let me call. Why, it seems ages since you were at home last vacation. Yes, ages, and I am so glad that you are here now.

(44.) Gertrude. Yes, it seems ages to me too, Harry, since I was at home last vacation and since I saw you, but I sent for you to talk of another matter.

(45.) Harry. And I came to talk of another matter too. Gertrude, I am getting tired of being separated from you, and now that your school days are over, and since I have loved you ever since we were playmates together, and tonight I love you better than ever, and, Gertrude, you must now consent to be my wife. Yes, mine forever, and as soon as convenient we will have the wedding and then my days of loneliness will be over.

(46.) Gertrude (with much emotion). Oh, Harry, don't speak of that. Please don't.

(47.) Harry. Well Gertrude, why not, dearest? I love you and am miserable when out of your presence. Am I mistaken in believing that you love me? Can it be possible that after these long years of dreaming on my part that you care for another and not me?



(48.) Gertrude. No, Harry, I love no one else, and you are not mistaken in supposing that I love you; for from the time of our childhood together, my love for you has been unailing. But Harry, my dear boy, I am not free. My life does not belong to me to give. It belongs to my Lord, and He has called me and I have volunteered to go, to become a Missionary nurse to the Negrito Tribes that are treated in our church hospital for them in Luzon.

(49.) Harry. But Gertrude, I can't give you up. My life will be wretched without you. Does religion require such a sacrifice as this? Does it require the best and highest that we have to give?

(50.) Gertrude. Yes, Harry dear. It requires all that and more, and in this case it requires that we surrender our love for each other in order that I may go in obedience to God's will. And Harry, my darling boy, be brave, let me go to work with your parting blessings. Try to be happy without me. Learn, if possible, to love some other girl. For my sake, oh, Harry, be brave.

(51.) Harry (rising to go, and speaking with much emotion). For your sake since it's God's will that you go, I will try, though my heart with pain is breaking, to be brave. But to be happy without you, or to learn to love another girl are both impossibilities, and from henceforth happiness itself shall flee from my face; for my love for

you shall last through life, and death itself shall not cause it to cease to endure. I shall go immediately and enlist in the army of my country, and seek to serve our standard in some distant clime, for in so doing I can get away from every scene of my childhood, where every song bird, babbling brook, and blushing rose only serves to awaken memories of this, the most bitter disappointment of my life, of the day when the only girl I ever loved passed out of my life forever. Good bye, Gertrude, good bye.

(Harry leaves.)

(52.) Gertrude. Good bye, Harry. (And as he leaves she falls half prostrate upon the couch and as she does so two or more voices sing softly, Let me call you sweetheart, I'm in love with you).

With this Gertrude falls upon her knees and cries out: Oh! my God must not this cup pass except I drink it. And immediately the face of the suffering Christ is thrown upon the screen, and she cries out, Not my will but Thine Oh Lord, be done. As she kneels the quartett sings, All to Jesus I surrender.

Curtain falls. End of Act II.

## ACT THREE.

### CAST OF CHARACTERS.

- III. Esq. John White, Gertrude's father.  
Mrs. Elizabeth White, her mother.  
Charlie White, Gertrude's brother.  
Harry Ward, her lover.  
Mose, the negro servant in White home.

### Scene III.

In sitting room in White home first evening after Gertrude sailed for her post of duty. Esq. White, his wife, his son Charlie and Uncle Mose present. The parents with bowed head, Charlie reads and Uncle Mose nods.

(1.) Charlie White speaks, addressing his parents. I say, papa and mama, home is very lonesome indeed after sister Gertie has gone. I just don't believe that I can ever be content for her to be so far away.

(2.) Esq. White (raising his head). Yes, it is very lonesome and sad indeed my son, without Gertrude, who was always an angel of light in our home. The old plantation doesn't seem to be the same. Even the birds seem to have a note of



sadness in their songs since she has gone so far away, but as we have said, Thy will be done in obedience to God's call, we will have to submit the best we can.

(3.) Mrs. Elizabeth White. And trust to our Heavenly Father, He who watches the sparrows so that not one falls without His notice. Trust to Him to take care of our darling child in that far-off land.

At this saying someone knocks, and the door is opened by Charlie, and Harry Ward enters dressed in his new uniform. He is now a soldier in the regular army.

(4.) Harry Ward speaks. Good evening Charlie, old friend and schoolmate. Good evening Esq. White, and Mrs. White. How are you all?

(5.) Esq. White. Well in body thank you, Harry, but troubled in mind and heart over the departure of our dear girl.

(6.) Mrs. White. Yes, we are very sad and lonely, Harry, and are so glad you came. It makes us think of her to see you here for you were children together, and it seems so strange that she is grown and gone away to the great work to which God has called her.

(7.) Mose wakes up from his nodding with a start. Well, Massa Harry, wha did you get dat uniform. Fust time Ise noticed dat you here. You looks jes like a sho nuff soldier.

(8.) Harry. Yes, Mose, I am a soldier now.

I enlisted today and will go tomorrow to join my regiment, and have just dropped in to say goodbye to all of you before I go.

(9.) Charlie. What, Harry, you going away too? Has everybody decided to leave the neighborhood? What ever gave you the idea of becoming a soldier?

(10.) Harry. Well, Charlie, dear boy, you have asked me an embarrassing question, especially when we are here in the presence of your father and mother. But I suppose I might as well confess to the truth that your sister's leaving is the cause of this determination on my part. It may not be becoming in a young man to say so, but such was my love for Gertrude that I couldn't stay in this section after she is gone, and I enlisted in the army simply to try and drown my trouble.

(11.) Charlie. And you Harry, my dearest schoolmate and friend, you going away because your heart bleeds too! Then two of us will seek solace for our broken and bleeding hearts in the army, and tomorrow I shall enlist and will leave with you.

(12.) Esq. White. What, Charlie. Am I to be deprived of all my children in my old days? Isn't one sorrow enough? But yet my dear boy, I don't blame you, for I know home is dull and lonesome without your sister, and, besides, the army life isn't so bad after all. I too did my bit



in this line of work in the sixties, and perhaps after all it isn't a bad thing for you to do.

(13.) Mose (getting up from his seat). Well, Massa John, youse gwine to lose someone else from dis plantation, too. Missus Gertrude done gone, Massa Charlie and Harry am gwine, and dis ole nigger's gwine way too. I jes kant stay here without de young folks to read to me, no I kanít, and Ise gwine way too. Eber since Mandy died Ise been thinking bout visiting my brudder Pete in de west. Pete's a rich nigger now foh he was sot free jes foh de wah and he has plenty room foh me, and Ise gwine kase I jes kant stay here widout little Missus and Massa Charlie, no I kant. Ise gwine, Massa John, I tells yoh Ise gwine too.

(Curtain falls long enough for Harry and Charlie to retire in company with Mose. Then it raises with Esq. White and wife alone.)

(14.) Esq. White. Well, wife, it seems that all are gone and we are left alone. Even Mose can't stay here after Gertrude has gone, and wife, I have just been thinking that we had as well sell the old plantation. We have money enough to last us the rest of our days. Let us sell and seek some relief at least from our sadness in travelling and seeing the sights of the world, and perhaps, in the course of events we will visit Luzon itself and see how our precious girl fares in the missionary work. Oh, if I could just see her face once



again and know that all is well with her, then I could say truly, Now Lord let thy servant depart in peace.

(15.) Mrs. White. My husband, you have well said. Whatsoever seemeth to be good in your eyes that will I do. Whither thou goest I will go. Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.

Curtain drops. End Act III.